



An Incomparable Legacy

The 2011 Superintendent's Report on the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh



The O'Toole family has shared in the Catholic school legacy for at least four generations. The three generations shown here represent Catholic education at St. Justin, Seton-LaSalle and Elizabeth Seton high schools, as well as Brookline Regional Catholic, St. Bernard, St. Margaret, St. Mary of the Mount, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Loreto, and Resurrection elementary schools. Seated L-R: James, Kevin, Sharon (Ciummo), King, Barbara, Suzanne (Aiello), and Amy (Shaughnessy) Standing L-R: Michele, Justin, Brandon, Benjamin, and James (Aiello)



The Legacy

Long before Pittsburgh became the Steel City or the City of Champions, the Catholic schools began to serve the region. For almost two centuries, hundreds of Catholic schools have provided a superb education for thousands of families throughout the area, enabling a largely immigrant population to assume its rightful position in the American mainstream.

After a century of achievement, one might make the observation that Catholic schools had developed a tradition of high quality. As we complete two centuries, however, we have gone far beyond "tradition."

The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh have created an incomparable legacy, a gift passed from generation to generation, characterized by a high level of support and participation from the Catholic community, and reflective of a level of quality almost unparalleled in American education.

The legacy has many facets.

We have created a **legacy of faith**; the religious growth and spiritual development that are its outcomes form the bedrock on which our schools rest. From the

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From the Bishop



Our late beloved Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, spoke of our Catholic schools as a “gift to the Church, a gift to the nation.” And they truly are! For 183 years, we have been blessed in the Diocese of Pittsburgh with Catholic elementary and secondary schools that offer our young people not only an exceptional academic education, but a solid foundation in the faith — and there is no greater gift than that.

Catholic education is a living legacy, handed on to each generation of students by those who know its value and who are willing to sacrifice to preserve it. Those of us who were fortunate enough to receive a Catholic education may not have been aware of its importance at the time, but we certainly appreciate it now. The same will be true for today's students. And, once they realize the value of what they have received, they, too, will want to make it available to new generations.

The gift of our Catholic schools is incomparable. Without a doubt, they help to make the *Church Alive!* in southwestern Pennsylvania and well beyond the diocese as graduates continue their journey of faith wherever God leads them. May all who attend, teach, work, volunteer and support our Catholic schools be blessed abundantly! You are passing on a great gift to the Church and to our nation.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,
Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

Grandmother Mary Adelaide Sprowls (standing) proudly gathers with her family; 2nd row: cousins and Bishop Canevin graduates Mary Kubiak and Maria Carnahan; front row (L to R): Liam Carnahan, Adrienne Kubiak, Ann Kubiak, Patrick Carnahan (St. Philip). Adrienne was the recent Western PA Champion in the Scripps Spelling Bee.



Joann Bagay (Mon Valley Catholic) poses with her two children, George (Bishop Canevin) and Macrina (Our Lady of Grace).

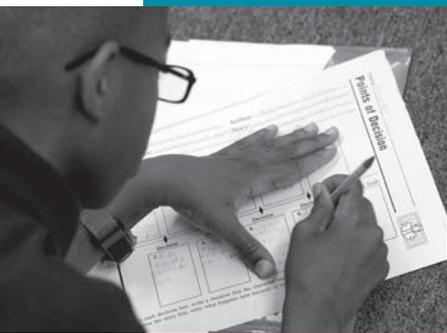


Our Catholic Schools At a Glance

- The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Pittsburgh have served western Pennsylvania since 1828.
- Only three school districts in the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania educate more students than the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



Twenty-one members of the Reilly family are Catholic school graduates. Here Bishop Canevin graduate Andrew gathers with his mother Margaret and his children, Andalusia (Grade 3) and Declan (Grade 1).



Our Catholic Schools At a Glance

- We have 100 schools serving the six-county Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- Our schools have a mission focused entirely on the person of Jesus Christ and the Gospel.
- Our schools comprise approximately 22,000 students and almost 1,700 teachers.
- Our students consistently score significantly above the national norms on standardized tests.

‘The Legacy,’ continued from page 2

beginning, our bishops, our priests and parishes, religious orders of men and women, and the laity in general, chose to give life to this legacy on a continuing basis. Our students grow in Christ and develop a moral dimension that guides their lives. In turn, our graduates share that spiritual dimension with a society in dire need of moral courage.

We have created a **legacy of academic achievement**, grounded in the commitments of superb teachers and dedicated administrators, and manifested in educational excellence and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Whether we discuss standardized test scores, graduation rates or college attendance, our students and graduates — including those typically considered “at-risk” — define “academic achievement” on a daily basis.

We have created a **legacy of service**. Our students, our graduates seek to return value for the gifts they were given. The desire to serve is less a duty than a lifestyle, part of a life well lived, and it is realized on both an institutional and an individual level. They commit money and they commit time, knowing that the greatest service is person to person.

We have created a **legacy of excellence**. We challenge our students to do their best, and they consistently meet the challenge. Across the social strata, across the generations, across more than 180 years of history, we have produced well-educated graduates, solid citizens and good people, who are prepared to seek God’s will, create strong families, and serve the common welfare.

Finally, we have created a **legacy of participation**. It is a family legacy, spanning generations, and involving entire families determined to pass on values, behaviors and commitments. Each family is willing to make the sacrifices necessary to share the legacy of a Catholic education with each new generation.

Since 1828, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh have created “Great Beginnings that Last a Lifetime.” It is an incomparable legacy.

From the Secretary for Catholic Education



The Reverend Kris D. Stubna, S.T.D.

The great legacy of our Catholic schools is measured in how well our schools transform the hearts, minds and souls of our students, enabling them to be faith-filled disciples and compassionate citizens. The excellence of our schools is directly proportional to the support of our Catholic community, the strength of our Christian faith, and the sacrifices of many generations, each of which has shared the same commitment to pass on our Catholic teaching and values to those who come after us.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh and its faithful have repeatedly shown their willingness to make the necessary sacrifices and commitments in support of our Catholic schools. So many have generously given time, talent and treasure in helping us to serve our children and youth. It does so because of its desire to guarantee that each generation understands and accepts the great truths — the great gift — of the Catholic faith.

It is this faith that motivates our Catholic schools, that gives them substance and meaning. It is this faith that inspires their commitment to excellence, and it is this faith that lives and is integrated into every dimension of our Catholic schools.

The legacy of a Catholic education is not just learning to read and comprehend, work with numbers, and understand historical facts. This legacy leads our graduates to seek to do the will of God, to bear witness to the truth, to serve the community, and lead moral, loving lives in imitation of Jesus Christ.

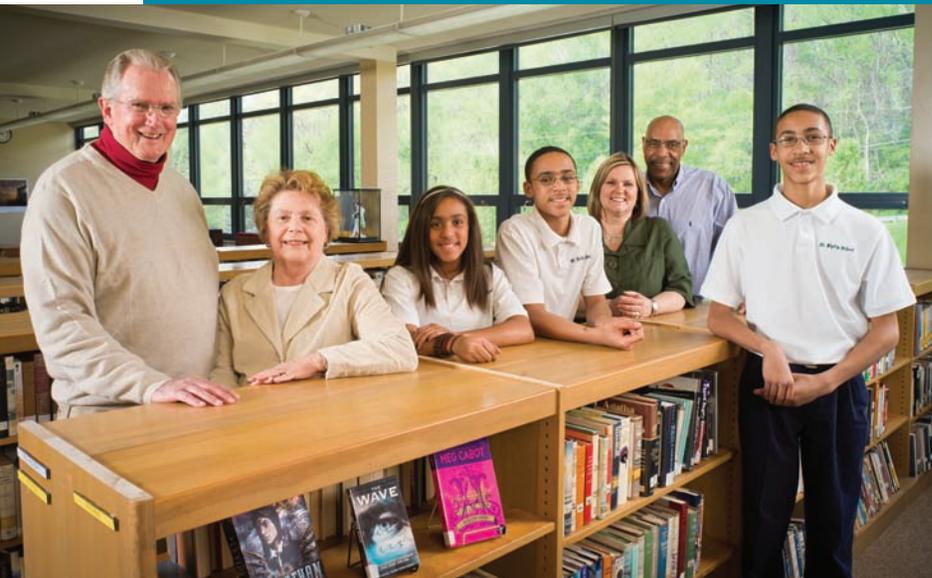
The Catholic school legacy is a gift that the Catholic Church offers to its young, and they, in turn, pass it on to the entire community. Catholic schools are indeed a great gift to the Church and to the country.



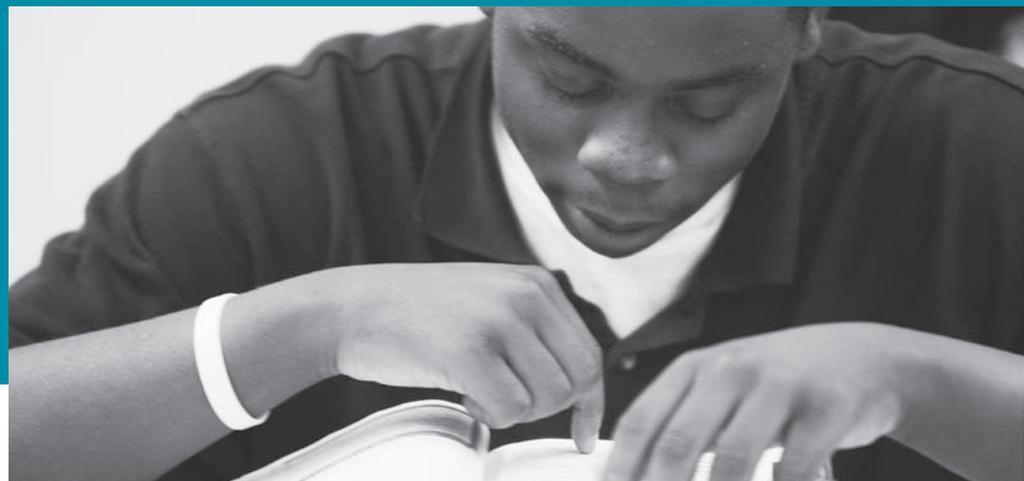
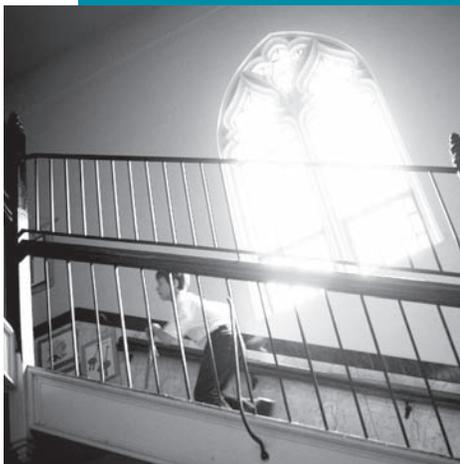
Three generations of the Lefcakis family — L to R: Lynn, Alies and Linda (Binek) — have graduated from Bishop Canevin.



Three generations of the Davis family represent Catholic education at St. Richard, St. Benedict the Moor, Sister Thea Bowman, Central Catholic, Oakland Catholic, Mt. Alvernia and St. Paul Cathedral. Standing (l to r) Charelise, Lindsay, Charles Lloyd and Mrs. Suzanne Davis. Seated (l to r): Charles Lloyd II, Charles, Madison and Mariah Davis.



At least four generations of Milinskis are Catholic school alumni. Walter and Nancy Milinski (far left) taught in the Catholic schools and passed the legacy on to their daughter Cheryl Milinski Bonds. Cheryl (and husband Leon far right) continue the tradition for their triplets Sydney, Julian and Walter (at St. Philip).



From the Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Dr. Robert Paserba

The term “legacy,” denotes something of value, developed over a span of time, and passed on to later generations. There are few better ways to describe the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Their indisputable excellence confirms their incomparable value, especially in this era when the mediocre often becomes acceptable. We continually remind our students that excellence in part, comes from the commitment to work as hard as one can, to do as well as one can. We accept nothing less.

For almost 200 years, our schools have been successful in developing an educational system in which excellence is expected; it is the norm. We have created an atmosphere in which “Catholic education” is synonymous with “good education.”

For generations, the entire Catholic community — the bishops, priests, parents and parishioners — have sacrificed to create the legacy that is the Catholic school. Generations of the Catholic community have received that gift and profited from it. Many of our schools are currently educating the third, fourth, even the fifth generation of a family — and plan to continue for additional generations to come.

And so the “Catholic School Legacy” goes on, offering each new generation that same Great Beginning that Lasts a Lifetime.

At a Glance

Our typical

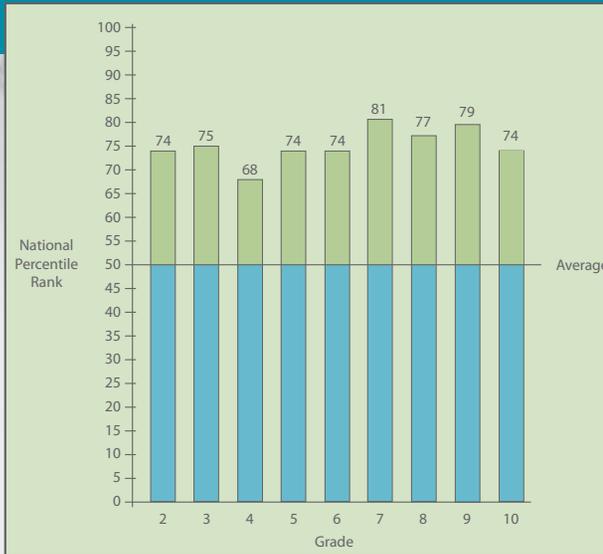
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- It has approximately 200 students and 14 teachers.
- It has a fully state-certificated faculty.
- It has an extensive extracurricular program of sports, clubs and activities.
- Its sponsoring parish(es) provide about 24 percent of its budget.
- It provides tuition assistance to families.
- It offers a broad program of service activities and community involvement.
- It is supported by extensive parent involvement and volunteer assistance.

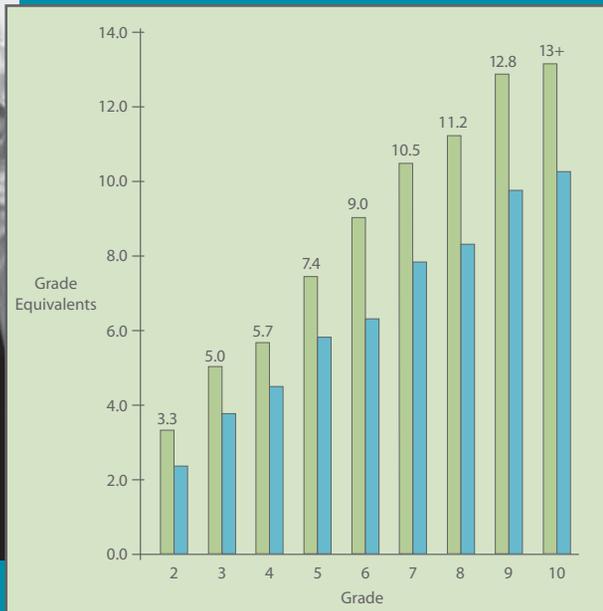
Our typical

HIGH SCHOOL

- It has about 440 students and 34 teachers.
- It has a fully state-certificated faculty of which three in four teachers have earned graduate degrees.
- It offers extensive honors, Advanced Placement, and college-in-high-school programs.
- It offers an extensive extracurricular program of sports, clubs and activities.
- It offers a broad program of service activities and community involvement.
- It provides tuition assistance to families.
- It graduates more than 99% of its seniors and sends 98% of its graduates on for further education.



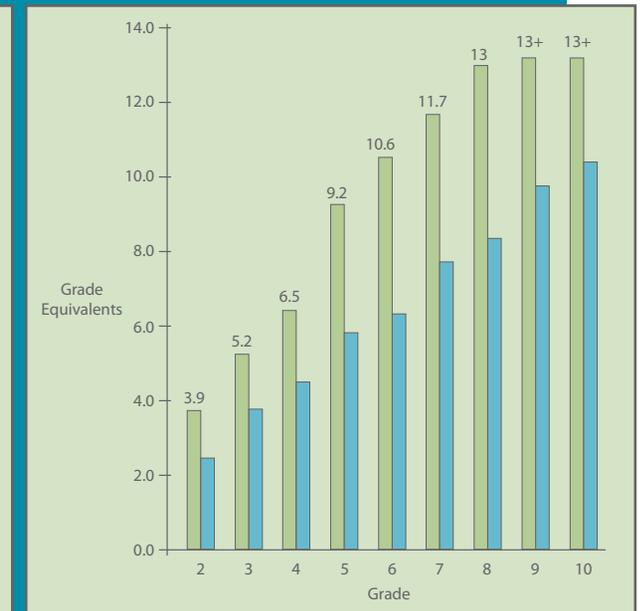
COMPLETE COMPOSITE, GRADES 2-10



MATH, GRADES 2-10

Academic Achievement

The results of recent standardized testing, which are presented here, show that, as a group, students who attend our Catholic schools performed above national norms in all subject areas. The sample to establish the national norms comprised a large number of students and took into account such factors as geographical location, school population, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity and public, parochial and private schools.



READING, GRADES 2-10

Based on Terra Nova Tests of Achievement (Grades 2-8) and The Iowa Test (Grades 9-10)

Key: ■ Diocesan Results ■ National Results



Seton-LaSalle grad Mike Farnan met his wife Theresa at Notre Dame. The Farnans are providing the gift of a Catholic education to their ten children.

Standing L to R: Paul, Theresa, Mike, Michael Jr. Seated L to R: Elizabeth, James, Sarah, Joseph, Mary, Kathleen, Jeanne. (Not pictured: Anne born in June, 2011.)

Our Catholic Schools At a Glance

- Our schools are at the cutting edge of curriculum and extracurriculars of every kind.
- Our schools are fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges, and meet all state and diocesan curriculum requirements.
- Our schools save the taxpayers of western Pennsylvania hundreds of millions of dollars each year.
- In the past ten years, our high schools have produced 120 National Merit semi-finalists and more than 100 National Merit finalists.

